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MC Dermott Indicted.....page 5
A Lesbian Dilemma.....page 13
U.T. Liberation Saga.....page 10
Rona Leaves Swamp..page 9



gaiety

november 1976

50¢

the mid-south's first gay news magazine

gaiety

Vol. III, No. 1

© 1976
GALI Publishers

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| GAIETY Gazette | Page 4 |
| Around Town. | Page 5 |
| Editorials | Page 6 |
| Mud. | Page 8 |
| Rona's Hot Flashes | Page 9 |
| UT Liberation Saga | Page 10 |
| Religion | Page 12 |
| Lesbian Feminist Forum | Page 13 |
| Cass' Corner | Page 15 |

'new gaiety'

By Tony Coppock

"Isadora told me that Frankie heard from Agnes that the whole staff was arrested for indecent exposure in front of the doughboy in Overton Park."

"GAIETY? Sure I read it. Then I save them up and stuff the cracks in my bedroom wall with them in cold weather."

"I read a GAIETY story to my parrot and found him dead in his cage the very next morning. The parakeets seem to get off on it, though."

"...but I thought they quit printing it."

The varied observations regarding GAIETY never surprise us, and the longer we publish, the more we see that there exists a fair-sized group of mid-south gays who have a somewhat distorted idea of our purposes.

When GAIETY first appeared in July of 1975 the aims were, and still are, manifold. Our primary purpose is educational. We strive to inform the gay community about political and legal happenings that, directly or indirectly, affect our lives. We also welcome the opportunity to keep you posted on important upcoming events pertinent to our alternative lifestyles.

Because fine arts, literature, plus a spectrum of other creative subjects play a part in our lives, we include them, as well.

Then there are those who want to know the juicy details of local people's lives, romantic and otherwise. (Thank you, Rona.)

All this is what GAIETY has been. And now you've just discovered what we staffers refer to as "the NEW GAIETY." Indeed, we're a different size with more attractive pages. No longer the folksy little newspaper, we are now in a transition phase, and moving toward the ultimate goal of a widely distributed, slick magazine.

But when you get right down to it, GAIETY is still just people. People who care about the quality of the lives of one of the most historically oppressed groups ever. To fight oppression, both internal and external, we must rely on intellect. Freud once wrote, "The voice of the intellect is a soft one, but it does not rest until it has gained a hearing. Ultimately, after endlessly repeated rebuffs, it succeeds."

So, as a soft voice of intellect with a prettier face than before, GAIETY will continue to face the endless rebuffs. Help us, and yourselves, and we will ultimately succeed.

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Mississippi Gays Charge

Police Harrassment In Park

JACKSON, MS - A complaint on behalf of the Mississippi Gay Alliance (MGA) charging police harrassment was filed September 29 with Jackson City Police by the American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi (ACLU/M). The complaint states that MGA Secretary Eddie Sandifer and two companions were approached in Smith Park by three plain-clother officers and threatened with arrest on charges of distrubing the peace and interfering with police.

Sandifer denied that they were distrubing the peace. One officer insisted that they were and took their names, addresses, telephone numbers and places of employment. The officer told them not to "play dumb . . . you are here for the same purposes the others come here."

Members of the MGA and other civil rights groups had been monitoring police activity in the park for two weeks because of numerous complaints of police harrassment of homosexuals in the park. Sandifer had previously discussed the group's monitoring plans with Sergeant Johnny Dickerson at police headquarters. He told Dickerson that their intentions were to see that "people did not do things in the park

that they should not be doing" and to make sure no one "said or did anything that would irritate or agitate the officer on duty."

Staff attorney for ACLU/M, Pat O'Rourke, said that undercover officers were working to "nab people who urinate in Smith Park." He suggested that the citizens of Jackson "would be better served if these officers were on the streets protecting persons and property."

FBI Links Carswell in Gay Murder

WASHINGTON - A photograph of a dead man and a stolen watch have linked the family of former Supreme Court nominee G. Harold Carswell with the murder of a gay high school teacher.

The New York Times has learned that the FBI apparently failed to notify the Nixon administration of the link when John Pack was found murdered in his Tallahassee apartment only two weeks after the Carswell nomination. Pack was shot three times with a .45 calibre pistol.

Inside the apartment, police discovered a photograph of Pack standing in front of a house he had rented the previous summer. The house was next door to the Carswell residence.

One week later police discovered a watch that was apparently stolen from Pack's body by the murderer. The FBI said the watch had been given

Deeply, Deeply, Deeply...

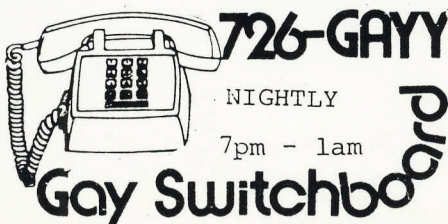
LOS ANGELES-S.I. Hayakawa, republican challenger to incumbent Senator John Tunney, said recently that he would vote against gay rights in Congress. Responding to a question about laws dealing with "public morality" The Advocate quotes Hayakawa as saying, "I am deeply, deeply, deeply prejudiced against homosexuality, and I will vote that way." Senator Tunney has said that he supports gay rights.

to Pack by Carswell's son, Scott. The younger Carswell had been a student of the high school where Pack taught.

Carswell was convicted last month and fined \$100 for making homosexual advances to a police officer in a Tallahassee men's room. Carswell's attorney has declined to comment on any aspect of Carswell's possible link with Pack.

Students Like Her/Him Board sn't Sure

EMERYVILLE, CA - An official at Emery High School called Doris Richards "the sweetest girl I've ever known." Then she returned from sick leave sporting a beard and wearing men's clothes. Doris Richards is now Steve Dain. The local school board balked, but a majority of the students want to keep their popular physical education teacher; regardless of the sex-change.



McDermott-Cheetham Indicted

Austin McDermott, former owner of the Body Shop Lounge, is being sought by police following a September 17 indictment by the Shelby County Grand Jury. The indictment, which names Alan Cheetham as co-defendant, stems from the January 6 fire that destroyed the Rain Check Lounge at 38 North Willett.

McDermott and Cheetham were arrested on February 20 and faced a preliminary hearing in City Court on April 7. At that hearing, the court found "probable cause" to implicate the two in the burning and bound them over to the Grand Jury.

Since then Cheetham has been convicted of third-degree burglary and is serving a three-year sentence at the Tennessee State Penitentiary.

McDermott failed to appear in Criminal Court for arraignment on October 13 and an arrest warrant was issued. The Shelby County Fugitive Squad have thus far been unable to locate McDermott.

Inspector Hewlett of the Fugitive Squad has indicated that every effort will be made to apprehend McDermott, even if he has left the state. "This is an extraditable offense on the surface. If the Attorney General tells me he's got a good enough case I'll even ask for an unlawful flight warrant through the F.B.I."

Switchboard: A Sympathetic Ear

"In Mississippi," the unidentified caller said, "we call y'all faggots!"

"In Memphis," the Gay Switchboard staffer responded, "we call you rednecks."

Occasionally, the switchboard volunteers have a lapse of professionalism when dealing with hang-up and crank calls. However, most of the callers are more serious and the switchboard offers valuable information, referrals, or counseling for crisis situations.

Training by mental and public health practitioners put the volunteer staff on a level equal to that of other Crisis Intervention service. The important difference is the fact that all the staffers are Gay.

By offering a separate Gay-oriented service they hope to make gay callers feel more at ease, especially when the caller is young or frightened.

The Gay Switchboard, created and co-ordinated by the S & L Task Force of the Memphis Chapter of N.O.W., does not serve as a gossip mill or dating service. Nor do staffers meet callers face-to-face. If requested, the name of a sympathetic doctor, lawyer, or therapist can be provided.

Donations of money and/or service are needed to keep the service operational.

Should you ever need help or just someone to talk to and listen to your problems, just call 726-4299 (726-GAYY) between 7 p.m. and 1 a.m., seven days a week. You'll be glad you did.

Who Owns 'Rapping Paper'??

John Reutke, a young man who presented himself to Memphians as the owner of the Ohio based Rapping Paper, "is in no way associated with" that magazine, according to the editor, Jay French.

Reutke worked for the magazine," French explained. Then Reutke called from Milwaukee where he was selling ads and requested a few days off claiming his brother had been killed in an accident.

A week later, French became suspicious. He called Reutke's parents and learned that the brother was alive and well. About that time, French noticed that magazines were missing and bad checks started turning up.

There are reports of Reutke's using the influence of the magazine to seduce tricks on the promise of using them as centerfold models. While in Memphis, Reutke told bar owners and patrons that he had recently purchased the magazine with money inherited from his grandfather. He expressed plans to expand the magazine to include Memphis and the Mid-South.

Jay French denied that Reutke has ever had any financial interest in the publication. He states flatly that "John Reutke is a fraud," and wants to prosecute for the bad checks as soon as he is located.

Campus Gays Seek Charter

The Gay Student Association (GSA) of Memphis State University is still struggling for official recognition from the M.S.U. administration, having been thwarted before even reaching the Student Government office.

(Continued on page 14)

Candidate Candids

On November 2 we all have the opportunity to select a Congressman who will soon encounter the controversial "Gay Rights Bill." The importance of this legislation and the value of each vote demands that we consider carefully the candidates from Memphis.

Harold Ford, the incumbent Democrat, is championed as an advocate for civil rights. His stand tends to get a bit cloudy, however, when the civil rights question moves from blacks and women to the area of gay rights. Early in the campaign, Ford was asked to indicate his position on the pending Abzug bill. Ford asserted his belief in "civil rights for everyone" but qualified it with a statement that he has not made a "final decision" on gay rights.

At a recent NOW meeting, Ford was asked about House Bills 5452 and 13928, both referring to the gay rights bill. Mr. Ford promptly assured his questioner that he was a co-sponsor of both bills. A check with Congressional Record proves that this is not true.

Mr. Ford's Republican opponent, Andy Allissandratos says that he is in "general agreement" with the gay bill. He realizes that it is impossible for a lawmaking body to legislate the morals of a country. Although he does suggest that the bill might have "better wording" he maintains that "constitutional guarantees must be extended to all our citizens."

Our Congressman's position on gay rights is an issue which should concern all of us. It is impossible to effect the kind of representation that San Francisco has achieved in local government or to elect a state representative like Elaine Noble of Boston until we let our politicians know that gay issues ARE important ...even in Tennessee.

GAITY urges you to be informed and to vote on November 2. Then follow through and write your Congressman to tell him your concern about the Abzug bill. The Post Watergate period of more responsive government could mean a new voice for gay citizens if we get involved now.

-GP

Beyond Liberation

Gay people have a tremendous opportunity to define for themselves a humanistic personal moral code. More than any other labeled group, gay people know the hypocrisy and sham of traditional society's standards. I remember suffering silently as the most precious thing a human can experience (my sensual and emotional feeling for others) was ridiculed and called perverted.

Those days need never happen again. Gay Liberation may have been short, splintered, and realized by relatively few, but it produced some profound changes. The few who grew with Gay Liberation have gone too far to back down now. Once you've tasted freedom, being force fed a stale diet of oppression will make you vomit.

Yet so many have rejected this magnificent opportunity to throw up old, worn-out, vague morality. Most gays (with the exception of a strong Lesbian-Feminist effort) are willing to just boogie at the discos and ignore the homophobic oppression surrounding us.

Gossip is still the hottest topic of conversation. Worship of transient youth and beauty stifles us all with standards hardly any of us can live up to. Closets abound. Political concern stops with a vague notion of who is running for office. The old, tired heterosexual myth of one great love to last a lifetime plagues us. Yet we are the very people who should realize that love is where you find it, that it comes in all shapes, sizes, and all levels of intensity - and all are GREAT if we relax enough to enjoy and SEE those around us. All of these things have their place - non-hostile gossip can be fun; youth and beauty are inspiring; the most belligerent, up-front gay may want to keep one foot in the closet; politics is a drag; and once in awhile romantic love MAY happen. But none of these need dominate or oppress us. We're a new breed with incredible potential to really love people for themselves. We owe it to ourselves and to oppressed heterosexuals to find a better way.

The label "gay" can be liberating if accepted as the ability and desire to love one's own sex and the freedom to live life without an imposed gender straight-jacket. We as gays and/or bisexuals, joyously "different" from the majority, are free to claim all human possibilities as our own. Let us seize this opportunity to re-define ourselves. -LL

GAITY

WISHES TO EXTEND SPECIAL THANKS

TO **M.C.C.** FOR ITS SUPPORT

WELCOME TO YOUR NEW HOME

What? Factionalism In Memphis?

Dear Editor...GS,

I would like to respond to your editorial concerning factionalism in the gay movement. To quote you, "Another very dangerous subculture coming into focus is the separatist element of the Lesbian Feminist Movement... I vigorously object to the separatists' rejection of all save that important to themselves."

...That there are organized separatist groups in other cities is a fact. That the political ideology of such groups does not correspond exactly to the Gay Rights Movement is obvious. But to imply that there is such a dangerous element in Memphis is speculation masquerading as fact. To the casual observer the occasional solidarity within the Lesbian Feminist Movement might be threatening enough to be considered separatist factionalism, but only to someone with a keen lack of understanding of the politics involved.

...Attacks such as yours on the Lesbian-Feminist Community can only serve to foster that same factionalism that you so vehemently oppose. Perhaps if we all seek to examine the goals that we hold in common instead of accenting our differences the result will be unity and success for us all.

- Pat Dunbar

GAIETY welcomes letters expressing the views of its readers. No anonymous letters will be published. Names may be withheld on request.

Dear Gary,

The feature editor's editorial...has created or perhaps just revealed a genuine problem. Considering the various backgrounds and priorities of the entire gay community, why does the editorial specifically condemn Lesbian Separatism? This gives the reader the impression that there is a dangerous lesbian subculture in Memphis, which in fact there is not, and that the Lesbian Separatist's concern with her own interests is somehow worse than a bar owner or a drag queen's concern with her or his own interests. Few of us are so altruistic as to completely forget our own concerns, but the test of this gay community is in each one's response to particular issues and situations, and each one's participation in the advancement of the whole community.

I am sure that Mr. Salles realizes that in a sexist society a woman's response to sexism is appropriate, not divisive.

For unity and understanding,
M. J. Cowart

Reader Shares Safety Concern

An open letter to the editors and readers of GAIETY:

Congratulations for taking the first step towards safer conditions in the bars in Memphis. Maybe I'm just paranoid but when I read of deaths caused by people panicing in an emergency I wonder what would happen if there were a panic in the bars here.

I have been to George's many times and have had a good time. But I wonder what would happen if we were all drunk and there was a fire. I've seen those big padlocks on those other doors. How could they possibly unlock them in time if something were to happen.

I wish George and Don the best of luck with their bar. But I wonder what life would be like for them if something were to happen and a death was on their conscience because someone couldn't get out of their bar.

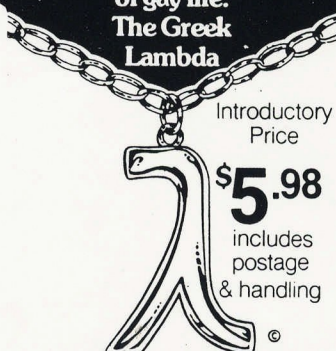
I hope you all won't quit reporting the truth. I've heard people say that George's is mad at you for printing that about the doors. Why? All they have to do is take those locks off when they're open.

There are probably other things that need looking into. I think you should do it.

Name withheld by request.

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only universally
recognized symbol
of gay life.
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Lambda**



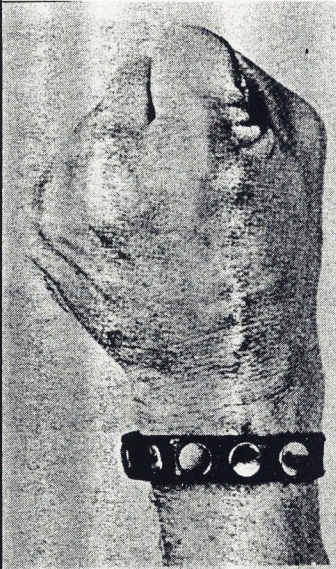
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mud

by Lady Jane Grey

Jackson, Mississippi is an oasis of purity amidst a desert hot with sin and depravity. There is no lust or public lewdness here. There are no hustlers here, only good Americans who enjoy a Coke and polite conversation after a hard day at the adding machine. People here get high on each other. There's nothing else to get high on.

"Mae's Cabaret" is a temple where homosexuals go to pray. Whites kneel by the bar while the coloreds shuffle around and mumble "Hallelujah." Drag queens are dumber in Jackson than anywhere else in the world. Nobody worries about being embarrassed by smart bitches, because there aren't any here.

These good people only have sex after they are married. Silk hymens are woven by Japanese dwarfs and sold cheaply in all homosexual hang-outs for those who lost their cherry while horseback riding.

Nobody ever teases anyone sexually here. Nobody ever sleeps with anybody here. Nobody ever gets drunk here because the bartender plays "foosball" all the time. People here would rather have good, clean fun in a Christian setting than to succumb to the temptations of a lascivious world. Gentility reigns supreme in Jackson, Mississippi.

Nobody gets crabs here. The girdles the boys wear smother the little devils to death. You have to be third generation queer before anyone will talk to you.

Of course if you want to sell your soul for an hour of pleasures, you can go to Smith Park and sit on the hood of your car. The more proper homosexuals circle in their autos. When you see a make and model you like, you flag it down. Or someone just might like your vehicle and ask you to "make the block" with them. Jacksonians are proud of the fact that it's not who you are or what you are but what kind of car you drive that really counts. I once got a shot at a gold Buick with only 13,000 miles on it.

Should you decide to relocate in Jackson, Mississippi: keep both eyes on the outside world and both hands over you crotch (chastity belts are available but don't worry.... you won't need one.)

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SLOWLY SETS IN
THE WEST, WHY NOT
SETTLE FOR THE BEST?
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'TIL 3 A.M. EVERY DAY OF
THE WEEK AND ON TUESDAYS YOU
CAN GET ALL THE BEER OR SETUPS
YOU CAN DRINK FOR JUST TWO DOLLARS
AT THE DOOR, 7 P.M. 'TIL MIDNIGHT,
EXCLUDING JUICES. DON'T LET THE SUN GO
DOWN ON YOU ANYWHERE BUT AT THE FRONT PAGE.

ON THE CORNER AT CLEVELAND & LINDEN

RONA'S HOT FLASHES

My Dear Pamela Jean,

I bet you think your sister is such a silly little scatterbrain. I know it's been just months since I wrote last, but wait til I fill you in on what's been happening, girl.

You remember that gorgeous fella that Aunt Gertie told you I met at Vanessa's Bar and Grill a while back? Well honey, that's one I wasn't about to let get away! I took him off to the camp meetin' that very night (just to show him off, you know) and guess what he did? He sat right there and held my hand in front of God and Sister Charlotte and everybody!

I'll swear, Pamela Jean, before that night was over I was just tingly-tingly. The next thing I knew it was pop-the-question time. Well, we decided to move up north to live. Seems the air 'round Wilkin's swamp is a bit heavy for my Daley. He has a delicate constitution, you know.

So here I am in the big city, married to a delightfully delicious doctor doing all the debonair things people do downtown. Can you believe I actually PAY someone to wash and fix my hair? A man at that. Now Don IS a little "funny," if you know what I mean, but he has simply marvelous equipment. (Honey, the things he can do with a curling iron.) Makes me feel like a real high class woman! And now he's invited me to some fabulous places to meet all the right people.

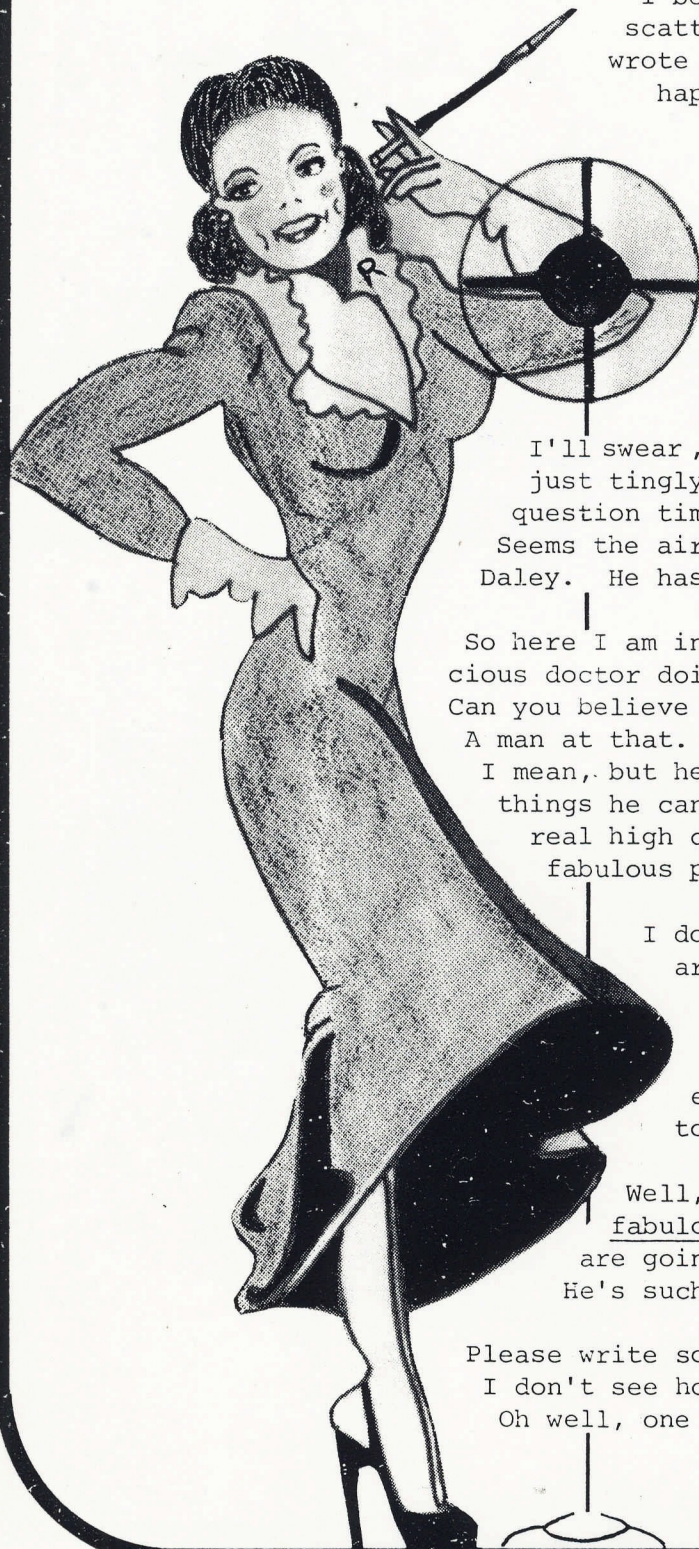
I do so hope my Daley lets me go. All his late hours are making me a work widow - at MY tender age. What I think he's really afraid of is letting his senior partner do his share of the work. Must be on the verge of a breakdown, poor dear, everytime Daley talks to his partner, Daley has to tell him, "take a valium, McQueen."

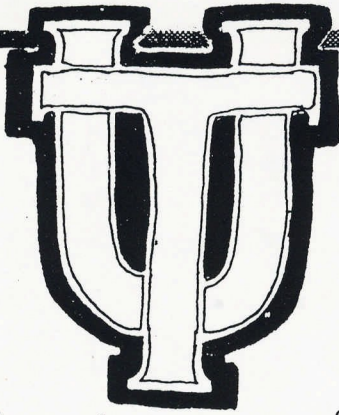
Well, my dear, I must be off. I just bought the most fabulous beaver... (coat, silly) and Anthony and I are going for a spin through the park to show it off. He's such a hoot in his two tone t-bird.

Please write soon and tell you friend Karen I send my best. I don't see how you two manage in that one bedroom shack. Oh well, one of these days Mr. Right will come along.

Ta-Ta,

Rona





Gay Liberation Front

by Laura Hoffman

The dynamic gay minister stood before a full house at the University of Tennessee student center on a February night in 1971. As the Reverend James Stoll concluded his speech on homosexuality with a question-and-answer session, a "redneck," who looked like a Marine drill instructor, jumped up.

"Do you mean, he asked spitefully, "that if you were to meet a naked man and a naked woman together, you would automatically jump into bed with the man?"

Stoll responded calmly, "I don't usually meet people that way." Thunderous applause told every gay in the audience that there were kindred spirits among us.

As the evening drew to a close, one student slipped down the aisle and handed Stoll a note. That note signified weeks of planning and strategy on the part of a few students who were doing something about what many of us had secretly dreamed. Stoll read the note announcing that all people interested in organizing a Gay Liberation Front (GLF) should remain after the speech.

The enlightened atmosphere of the occasion still was not enough to prevent people - "interested" or otherwise - from fleeing the auditorium. For those of us who crept back through side doors, however, it was the beginning of a memorable year, a bittersweet celebration of gay pride and struggle for acceptance.

A graduate teaching assistant, I thought I was taking my life into my hands that night. At 25, I expected to be the oldest person there, the only teacher and possibly the only woman. My consolation was that on such an enormous campus I would at least be anonymous. But I wasn't as I discovered when I sat down next to a guy from French 213.

By the end of the first meeting, we were all in it together. We envisioned a group of men and women working in pursuit of common goals: University recognition, public education and awareness, legal reform and more diverse social activity for gays. University recognition was a primary goal, because it would help implement the others. It would allow us use of campus facilities and most importantly, it would provide a means of setting legal precedent in Tennessee.

Formidable obstacles stood in our way. Working within the system, we had to draw up a constitution acceptable to an intricate hierarchy of university officials. We needn't have bothered. The University of Tennessee was not prepared to accept a gay student group in 1971 - no matter how carefully the constitution was written.

Their rationale for denying us official recognition rested on the premise that homosexuality is illegal in Tennessee; UT, therefore, could not sanction illegal activity. Our argument was that we were not seeking permission to have orgies in the student center, but that we were merely a group of people working to effect changes in the laws, that we were committed to a belief that consenting adult laws create a more healthy environment. The University argued that we were still an organization of illicit beings. They insisted that we could not be sympathetic without being homosexual (else why would we care?) and that being homosexual meant performing illegal acts (sex, of course being our only concern.)

The ultimate problem was a vicious circle. Our U.S. Constitution allows freedom of assembly and speech, and we are all taught that it is our right - indeed our obligation - to work for change as long as we do it within the system. But we were denied this right solely on the grounds that what we represented

was illegal; therefore, we could not assemble to do anything about it. In essence, we were kicked out of the system for trying to work within it.

One of our most memorable encounters was a meeting devoted to the issue of "parents." It was keynoted by the mother of one of our members. At least one hundred people stayed up til early morning hours discussing the problem: "how do you tell your parents you're gay?"

Going public was both painful and rewarding. For those of us elected officers, there was no choice. University regulations stipulated that all campus organizations have bona-fide student officers with real first and last names. For GLF officers, it meant that private lives were now public information.

The fear and trepidation with which I approached my first GLF meeting was gone by the time I became an officer. But it returned the morning my name first appeared on the front page of the paper. Most of us were already open among friends and associates. Little did we realize, however, the enormity of our public revelations. Suddenly we became obvious and self-conscious. It's one thing to be loved or accepted by straights who can put your sexual orientation in the same perspective that you put theirs. It's another thing to be leered at by the auto mechanic or the lady who cashes your checks - people who never did really know you, but now know you're simply a "queer."

But it was worth it. As a group, we gained an enormous amount of admiration, and we made our mark: people who had once adhered to stereotyped notions rallied behind us.

We also made our mark on each other. As a group of men and women, we put our sexist prejudice behind us and identified common goals for male homosexuals and lesbians. We fought bigotry as our common enemy and we consoled one another with love, understanding and often tears. We shall never forget it.

UPDATE

Today, more than five years after that initial confrontation, the door to University recognition remains closed. Nevertheless, a younger generation of **UT** students keep the struggle for gay freedom growing at an even higher pace.

The Knoxville Gay Caucus is basically a political collective whose projects include a gay awareness class and an encounter group. The Knoxville Lesbian Feminist Association now has a women's rap group and a football team: the Amazons. Recently both groups have coalesced to form two new projects: the Gay Information Hotline and a peer counseling service.

What Happened to Good Queen Bess
Her Last Night at the Cosmopolitan Baths?

SUPERSTAR MURDER?

A Prose Flick

by John Paul Hudson* and Warren Wexler

• . . . delectably perverse.

—BLUEBOY Magazine

• Juicy! Memphis may not like it, but it works for me.

—Harry Reems

• Once I picked up SUPERSTAR MURDER? I couldn't put it down. It almost gave me a hernia.

—Joan Rivers

• Scandalous! Shocking! It's enough to curl Gladys' hair. A racy, razzle-dazzle thriller, but not what you'd want to give your nieces and nephews or recommend to the girls at Ladies Aid. Thank heaven this sort of thing couldn't happen in Hollywood (could it?)!

—Ruth Buzzi

• Hallelujah! One of Gay America's favorite authors of nonfiction has turned (with a friend) to fiction and brought us one of those don't-give-away-the-ending mystery stories we all love to curl up with. It's also funny and glamorous and has an important message, which is part of the suspense. Fantastic.

—The Rev. Troy Perry



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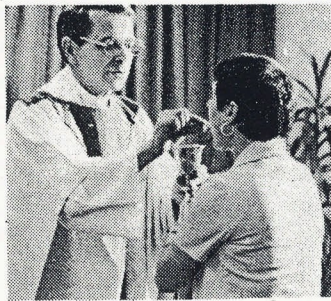
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Bishop George Hyde Offers Memphis Mass

Back in 1946 a small Atlanta congregation assembled to worship. There was no other church like this one in the entire nation. Nowhere else could these Christians worship openly and honestly, without fear of censure. This church was the Eucharistic Catholic Church and most of its members were homosexuals.

In mid-August of 1976 the founder of that church visited Memphis to meet new friends and to explore the possibility of opening a mission in Memphis. That man was the Most Rev. George Hyde, now Archbishop of the Orthodox Catholic Church of America.

Bishop Hyde spends a lot of time traveling, talking to groups, counseling people and helping to start churches where gays can worship freely with dignity and respect. Before returning to his home in South Carolina, he offered to return when his schedule permits. Bishop Hyde's driving goal is to make God's house a home for all-including gays, because "there are no closets in His house."



M.C.C. Memphis Finds New Home

Metropolitan Community Church of Memphis is pleased to announce the acquisition of a new meeting space. The church, currently meeting at 224 N. Watkins, will be moving into its new sanctuary and office at 1207 N. McLean Blvd., sometime early in November.

A clean-up project is currently underway to get the facility ready for its formal dedication, tentatively scheduled for sometime after district conference, Nov. 13 - 14. As soon as plans are finalized, flyers will be distributed listing all details.

A Review -

The Church & The Homosexual

The following review appeared in the 9/76 issue of Dignity, the international publication of the Gay Catholic community, and is reprinted here with permission. The reviewer is Rev. Gregory Baum, O.S.A., world-famous theologian and author of "Catholic Homosexuals." which appeared in Commonweal on Feb. 25, 1974.

This is the first book written by a Catholic theologian that advocates a radically new approach to homosexual love among men and women. Fr. John McNeill, S.J., has published his work with the official approval of his Jesuit superior. Permission to publish the book was granted because it might indicate a future approach of the Catholic Church to new research. Even though this work contradicts the Church's official teaching it was approved because it provides serious, rational, scholarly arguments that deserve the attention of Catholics and that may at one time modify the Church's official position.

The book first examines the teaching of scripture on homosexuality. The author shows that the negative evaluation which appears in the biblical books is derived from the culture in which the people lived, not for the revelatory

events that constitute the core of the faith of Israel and this Church. McNeill tries to clarify the Bible's teachings on sexuality including the total integration of sexuality into one's personality to achieve "union in love with their fellow beings and with God."

(con't on page 14)

The Church and the Homosexual

John J. McNeill, S.J.



LESBIAN FEMINIST FORUM

by Pat Dunbar

You have just discovered the newest addition to the GAIETY family of regular features. L/F Forum is an effort to lend expression to some of the feelings encountered by those of us whose lives are caught between two movements.

As feminists we are committed to the women's struggle against sexism and oppression in a male-dominated society. As lesbians we are committed to the struggle for individual rights and specifically for gay civil rights and protective legislation. It seems

that our own futures are inexorably linked to both the Women's Lib and the Gay Rights Movements. By slighting either of these we only hurt ourselves. The freedom that we seek is both as woman and as homosexual.

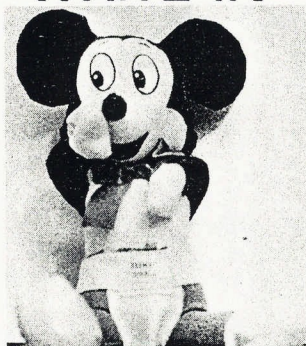
There is no freedom for me as a lesbian as long as women as a class are oppressed. Conversely, liberty for me as a woman is negated as long as homosexuality is not recognized as a valid lifestyle. So here I stand, along with all of those who espouse the term "Lesbian-Feminist", with one foot cemented firmly in the Women's Movement and the other in the Gay Rights Movement. And from this vantage-point I am aware of at least two distinct possibilities.

The first is that the lesbian-feminist may serve as a pivot for both movements, so that, ideally, women in the Gay Rights Movement need not be victims of sexism and male domination, and so that lesbians in the Women's Movement need not fear oppression because of their sexuality. The second possibility is that I may be figuratively torn in half between two causes that may or may not be reconcilable.

I don't claim to have the answers. What I would like to do in this column is to get the input of interested persons and begin to ask the questions that we Lesbian-Feminists must deal with; and to do so with as much insight and clarity as possible.

What do you say? Write FORUM, P.O. Box 3620, Memphis TN. 38103

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14 around town

(Continued from page 5)

Actions are being taken to insure that the request for charter reaches the Student Senate, who has the final authority in charter requests. When asked, GSA President Gary E. Salles declined to elaborate on what steps the group is taking, saying that any adverse publicity at this point would only further hamper their actions.

The GSA is sponsoring a dutch-treat supper at the Shoney's Restaruant in Eastgate Shopping Center, Friday, Nov. 5th, at 6 p.m., followed immediately by the gay comedy movie, The Ritz, next door at the Paramount Theatre.

Anyone wishing additional information should contact the Gay Student Association, P.O. Box 82296, M.S.U., Memphis, TN 38152.

WEVL Tunes In Gays

A new radio program entitled "The Gay Alternative" is being presented each Tuesday evening at 7:30 on WEVL-FM 90.3, the Memphis community-sponsored radio station.

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MISS GAY
MISSISSIPPI
NOVEMBER 6, 1976

"The Gay Alternative" is the first media effort in the mid-south specifically for gays. G.A. program director, Ford Stuart, said he hopes that this program can bring a more balanced view of gays to the area and provide the Gay Community a forum through which to discuss its successes and any problems which may be of particular interest.

The show will provide various gay organizations in the mid-south another way of reaching those of the Gay Community. Any comments or suggestions should be sent to P.O. Box 3645, Memphis, TN 38103 % The Gay Alternative.

(The Church & the Homosexual, con't)

The thesis of the book deals with the moral norms for evaluating homosexual love. McNeill proposes that these should be exactly the same as those that govern heterosexual love, namely the transformation of personal life in unity and truth. Fr. McNeill does not regard homosexuality as an illness, a pathology, or a fault to be overcome.

McNeill's thesis is important. One must hope that it will be received with openness by moral theologians and gain standing in the Catholic community. But whether there is a perfect parallelism between heterosexuality and homosexuality is a question that deserves to be studied further. Can one be so certain that homosexual men and women should imitate the life patterns of heterosexuals? These are issues that remain open for discussion.

The patterns of life leading to self-transcendence may be more varied than we suppose for all sorts of people, homosexual and heterosexual. It seems to me that people who are at odds with the world from the beginning can be well only if their approach to life includes a wider, critical stance toward society. In the women's movement, many women have found that critical action becomes the proper mode by which they gain new self-understanding and that an overly hasty search for surrender in personal love easily locks them into dependency patterns of the past.

It seems to me that there are many ways of self-transcendence in human life. And hence I do not know whether it is in the long run good advice to homosexuals to seek in abiding forms of personal love the key to self transcendence and the following of the gospel at this time.



The 1976 Miss Black Gay Memphis Pageant was held on September 20, at George's Theatre Lounge with Wilma from the Butterfly Cabaret being awarded the crown.



Laura Lee Love was crowned Miss Apollo Memphis on October 9. The pageant was held at George's. Christine was the emcee at the first annual pageant.

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DEALER INQUIRIES INVITED

*Cass
Michaels*



As usual, Cass has been on the move this month - just in and out of every little ol' thing that I could get my hands on (or in). I haven't heard of any new restaurants that have opened or that sound interesting (or in my budget), so I'll mention two of the old standards. For instance, for divine Italian food, salads, or homecooked meats and vegetables, try Dino's Southwestern Grill. Located at 645 N. McLean Blvd., it's a family style restaurant with really great prices. And you will usually see some of our gay sisters and brothers there. Or, try sharing a table with someone else who is waiting in line. If you're alone or with one other person and so are they. Just ask if they'd like to share your table. It usually has pleasant results.

For the best pizza in this city (except, perhaps in my kitchen) go to White's at 2356 Jackson and by all means have their special. But take big appetites.

This month I had the occasion to meet a very talented and interesting woman. Patty Mayer works at Circuit Playhouse. She is one of the three staff members and is in charge of Public Relations. She also, builds sets, makes costumes and acts to boot. She was the only "real female" in El Grande de Coca Cola. She's at Circuit most every night and is a lot of fun. Next time you're at Circuit, say hello!

Love and Lashes, Cass

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LOS ANGELES - Wonderwoman, Batman, Robin...were they gay? Dr. Frederic Wetham in the recently published Encyclopedia of Comic Book Heroes said that the hunky, leotarded figures of Batman and Robin were a "wish dream of two homosexuals living together." The psychiatrist also sees Wonderwoman as "the lesbian counterpart of Batman."

MOUNT PLEASANT, MI - Holly Near and Elton John have joined a growing list of performers who have publicly acknowledged that they are bisexual. "It's finally happened," Near told the crowd at the Women's Music Festival, "and I know a lot of you have been waiting for it a long time." Rumors have suggested that Near was involved with singer Meg Christian. In an interview with Rolling Stone, Elton John admitted, "I haven't found anyone I could settle down with yet, of either sex." Calling himself bisexual, John said that he saw "nothing wrong with going to bed with someone of the same sex."

TORONTO - Bill Holloway and Tom Field were arrested as they were posing to illustrate an article on homophobia. The two young men were convicted and fined \$50 each for kissing on a downtown street. In protest, the Body Politic, a Canadian gay newspaper sponsored a "kiss-in." Demonstrating that gays have the same right to small acts of affection as straights, about 20 gays marched through downtown in couples and triples...kissing as they walked. Police did not interfere in the demonstration.

NEW YORK - Lt Gov. Mary Anne Krupsak has asked the Democratic nominee for the House of Representatives, Theodore Weiss, to step aside so that Bella Abzug may run again. Abzug gave up her House seat to run for the Democratic nomination for senator and lost to Daniel P. Moynihan. Abzug had been an outspoken champion for gay and women's rights while in the House. Krupsak explained: "women all over the country are upset that Bella will not be in Washington." Weiss refused to step aside.

BOSTON - "When non-alcoholic males drink alcohol, they produce less of the sex hormone that makes them men." the New England Journal of Medicine reports. This conclusion was based on a study of men ages 21 to 40 in which the testosterone levels of the men dropped 29 to 55 percent after heavy alcohol intake. Results of whether alcohol diminishes sexual functioning in women "would be forthcoming in a few years," researchers said.

TALLAHASSEE, FL - A grand jury has asked that Florida close down restrooms like the one in which former Supreme Court nominee G. Harrold Carswell was recently entrapped. After the undercover vice arrest at Northwood Mall, the Leon County grand jury made an inspection and decided that bathroom cruising was harmful to the "public health, sanitation, safety, morals or general welfare."

NEW YORK - A two-hour dramatization of the discharge hearing of former Air Force Sgt. Leonard Matlovich is planned by NBC-TV for next spring. Tim Moore, executive producer of Matlovich vs. the U.S. Air Force, called the dramatization "extremely important to enlighten the television viewer."

NEW YORK - Arthur Bell, in his Village Voice column, claims that the press agent of one lesbian comedienne stopped her from revealing her gayness in an ADVOCATE interview, for fear that her sponsor's would cut off support to her TV specials. Rhoda, of Chicago's Gay Life, commented, "I guess that settles the question of Edith Ann's sexual preference, doesn't it....."